

## Oral Report to 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention National Chairperson of Resolutions Rolande Chernichan

I have good news! After a two-year hiatus, resolutions are back! The COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to in-person meetings and conventions and, as a result, the presentation of new resolutions could not occur because of limitations for debate. Last year the national annual meetings of members for 2020 and 2021 were held in a mostly virtual setting, and it provided an opportunity for the archiving of several resolutions. This year, we are thankful and filled with optimism to be able to resume business as usual.

A major change to the resolutions process, by doing away with the whereas clauses, was introduced at the last in-person national convention held in 2019. The resolved clause IS the resolution; it identifies the intent of the resolution by stating the topic, the desired action and to whom the resolution is directed. Emphasis and debate at annual convention now centres on refining the resolved clause to define the League's position on the topic, supported by the brief and research from reliable resources.

Since the fall of 2021, a two-year position paper project was developed by a partnership of the national chairpersons of legislation and resolutions. We are happy to share that the project is progressing as envisioned. Through the assistance and teamwork of provincial chairpersons for resolutions and legislation, an extensive review of the League's 13 position papers is complete. Concurrently, the review and evaluation of 24 current resolutions, as well as 39 resolutions still relevant that were archived in 2021, was undertaken by national chairpersons to determine if position papers were warranted. Their work is also complete. Recommendations arising from all reviews were collated and submitted to the national executive/board.

The second year of the project will involve teamwork for the development and/or revision of position papers that will formally communicate the League's position on certain topics or issues. They will be a valuable resource for the development of future resolutions. Visitors to the national website can gain insight about the League and Catholic beliefs conveyed through these position papers.

National resolutions were last presented to the federal government in November 2018. Resolutions from the 2019 convention could not be presented because of the timing of a federal election and then the pandemic. The planning for a delegation to Parliament Hill will begin following this convention.

The League's strategic plan, supported by the pillars of faith, service and social justice, should be fully implemented in 2023. Necessary resources to fill the void created by the phasing out of the resolutions standing committee will be provided. Will resolutions continue to be part of the League's identity in the future? This is dependent upon all members, both present and future, to be interested and informed about social justice issues and government legislation, and to continue to be the voice for change.

The envisioned future of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- A vital participant in the church;
- A valued partner for social justice;
- A respected advocate at all government levels;
- Connected to the world.

Resolutions are the voice of members and a voice for the voiceless! They are the hallmark of the League because of its advocacy to government. They are part and parcel of being Catholic and Living it! Your interest and involvement are always welcomed!